

adjusting the broth concentration of this neurotransmitter to this level, then assessing the efficacy of the concentration. If the concentration is not optimal, as at 6, then it is adjusted upwards or downwards until the desired enhancement in glucose yield is obtained, as at 7, as a result of the stimulating effect of the presence of the neurotransmitter. The product may then be harvested, as at Block 8.

As described herein, the living organisms or vectors which possess the genetic complement enabling possession of the novel receptor described herein include vertebrates, invertebrates, unicellular animals, multicellular animals, living tissue, unicellular plants, multicellular plants, and phages. Although described in reference to gram negative bacteria, this method has particular applicability to the control of proliferation of all infectious agents, including mycobacteria and viruses.

Finally, it has been documented that certain plants contain large amounts of catecholamines. Since it has also been documented that the presence or absence of certain bacteria may repress or enhance growth processes in these plants, it is industrially significant that these bacteria thrive or are repressed in the presence of catecholamines.

This invention has been described herein in considerable detail in order to comply with the Patent Statutes and to provide those skilled in the art with the information needed to apply the novel principles and to construct and use such specialized components as are required. However, it is to be understood that the invention can be carried out by specifically different equipment and devices and that various modifications, both as to equipment details and operating procedures, can be accomplished without departing from the scope of the invention itself.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of suppressing the growth of Gram-positive bacteria in a host medium, said host medium being selected from the group consisting of in vitro and cell cultures, said method comprising the introduction of an effective amount of a catecholamine to the host medium to act directly on the growth of Gram-positive bacteria.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catecholamine is selected from epinephrine and norepinephrine.

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